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To:

P. W.

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PH

No. 0632/68
29 January 1968

MEMORANDUM

SUBJECT: Preliminary Assessment of BLACK SHIELD
Mission 6847 over North Korea

Summary

BLACK SHIELD Mission 6847, flown over North Korea on 26 January 1968, obtained photography of the entire southern half of the country. Photographic quality was good, and 90 percent of the area covered was cloud free.

The mission obtained good baseline coverage of most of North Korea's armed forces as well as large portions of the transportation system and industrial base. Air force and naval bases--except those in the northern part--were well covered. There were no unusual air or naval deployments, but some new equipment and a new base for Komar--missile patrol boats were identified.

Good coverage was obtained of both North Korean and ROK military forces and activity along the DMZ. No North Korean ground forces build-up was observed in or near the DMZ. The North Korean surface-to-air missile defenses appear to be in a high state of readiness. The USS Pueblo was anchored in an inlet in Wonsan Bay, attended by two North Korean patrol boats and guarded by three Komars.

Note: This memorandum was prepared by the Directorate of Intelligence.

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USS Pueblo

1. The Pueblo is at an offshore anchorage in a small, isolated bay north of Wonsan with two North Korean patrol boats anchored alongside. No damage to the Pueblo is discernible. There is no evidence of activity around the Pueblo, with the exception of the two patrol boats.

Ground Forces

2. Ground force activity along the DMZ and northward as far as the center of the country looked normal, and no major concentrations of forces or significant movements were seen.

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[REDACTED] This coverage will provide a good basis for evaluation of future construction activities and deployments.

3. Along the ROK side of the DMZ there was more evidence of vehicle movements and equipment concentrations, in contrast to the highly dispersed, fairly static, [REDACTED] on the North Korean side.

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Air Forces

4. Eight of the most important of the 15 North Korean military airfields were covered by this mission and aircraft dispositions were in accord with previous estimates. The number of fighter aircraft seen was in some instances below the present order of battle.

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5. At Pukchang-ni Airfield, where most new fighter aircraft are delivered from the USSR, 51 fuselage shipping crates--probably for the MIG-17 Fresco--were seen. If these crates were delivered recently, their delivery would add a new dimension to the current aircraft procurement program of

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North Korea, which has been re-equipping with the more advanced MIG-21/Fishbed supplied by the USSR. There has been no evidence of an emergency delivery since the current crisis began.

6. The main IL-28 jet light bomber base at Uiju near the Chinese border was not covered, but there is no evidence that any of these aircraft have deployed toward the DMZ. The normal complement of IL-28s was seen at Sunan near Pyongyang, the other IL-28 base.

Naval Activity

7. About half of North Korea's naval force was seen by this mission. No unusual vessel deployments or build-ups were seen along the southern half of the east and west coasts.

8. Seven of North Korea's eight Komar guided-missile patrol boats were in their normal operating area near Wonsan, three of them apparently guarding the small bay where Pueblo is anchored.

9. A new support base for the Komar squadron and its Styx missiles was identified on a peninsula in the Wonsan area. The base consists of a missile support facility, docking areas for the boats, [redacted] As many as 30 Styx missile crates can be seen in the missile support area.

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10. The mission provided no major changes to the naval order-of-battle in the areas covered, with the exception of the presence of two Shershen-class torpedo boats in the Wonsan area. The Shershen is the most modern Soviet torpedo boat, and these vessels were probably supplied by the USSR as part of its military aid program to North Korea.

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11. The four W-class torpedo attack submarines in the North Korean Navy were not seen.

Railway and Road Activity

12. Examination of major roads and railways from the DMZ northward discloses no evidence of unusual movements or major troop or supply build-ups. Immediately north of the DMZ no unusual truck convoys were on the major roads and the level of activity in the rail yards at the southern termini of the lines was normal.

13. Further to the north, in the industrialized portions of North Korea, more road and rail activity was observed. The amount of rail activity on the main lines and in the principal rail yards is considered normal, however, and is probably serving routine economic and industrial needs. Road traffic also appears to be at normal levels. No unusual rail or road activity was evident in the Wonsan area.

Surface-to-Air Missile Defenses

14. The North Korean surface-to-air missile (SAM) sites are probably completely operational and appear to be in a high state of readiness. Thirteen of the 14 known sites were covered, and equipment was observed at all sites. One to three missiles were on launchers at all but one of the sites, and roads were clear of snow. No new sites have been detected so far. The SAM support area at Pyongyang was also covered, but no unusual activity was noted.

Coastal Defense Cruise Missiles

15. The known Samlet coastal defense cruise missile site at Nampo on the west coast was covered and some vehicles were observed.

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Across the bay on the northern side a possible cruise missile site was newly identified. Past photography shows that this site has been there

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[redacted] and no equipment has been observed, suggesting that it is inactive. No other coastal defense cruise missile sites have been identified in North Korea.

Industry and Transportation

16. Extensive coverage was obtained of North Korea's major industrial complexes and major transportation networks--road, rail, and water--in the southern half of the country. All the industrial complexes examined were active, but there is no unusual activity. North Korea's major petroleum storage facilities were not covered by this mission, but the smaller sites in the southern part of the country show no evidence of recent expansion or unusual activity. None of the five North Korean merchant ships can be identified in the ports covered.

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